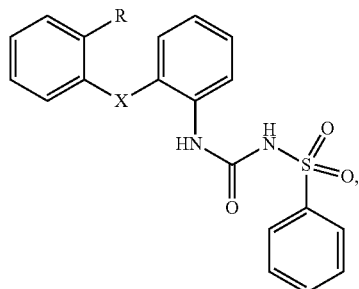


We claim:

1. A small molecule having the structure of Formula (III):



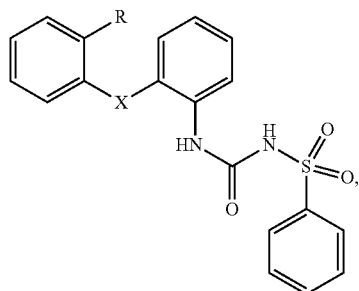
(III)

wherein:

R is H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, COOH or COOCH<sub>3</sub>; and

X is CH<sub>2</sub>, NH, O, NCH<sub>3</sub>, or SO<sub>2</sub>.

2. A method for restoring or preserving cholesterol efflux in a cell infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) comprising delivering to the cell an effective amount of a composition or formulation comprising a small molecule of Formula (III) or an analog or derivative thereof:



(III)

wherein:

R, R<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, COOH or COOCH<sub>3</sub>; and

X is CH<sub>2</sub>, NH, O, NCH<sub>3</sub>, or SO<sub>2</sub>.

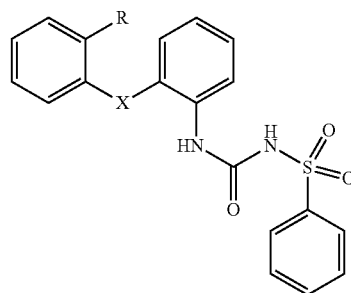
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the small molecule binds to at least one amino acid residue on the Nef protein, wherein the at least one amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of a lysine at amino acid position 4, a serine at amino acid position 6, a lysine at amino acid position 7, and a tyrosine at amino acid position 124.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the small molecule binds to at least one amino acid residue on the Calnexin

protein, wherein the at least one amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of an aspartic acid at position 90, a glutamic acid at amino acid position 529, a glutamic acid at amino acid position 532, and a glutamic acid at amino acid position 533.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein preventing or decreasing the interaction between the Nef protein and the Calnexin protein results in at least partial restoration of ATP-Binding Cassette A1 (ABCA1) activity.

6. A method for treating or preventing atherosclerosis in a subject infected with HIV comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a composition or formulation comprising a small molecule of Formula (III):



(III)

wherein R, R<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, COOH or COOCH<sub>3</sub>; and

X is CH<sub>2</sub>, NH, O, NCH<sub>3</sub>, or SO<sub>2</sub>; and

wherein the small molecule prevents or decreases an interaction between a Nef protein and a Calnexin protein.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the small molecule binds to at least one amino acid residue on the Nef protein, wherein the at least one amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of a lysine at amino acid position 4, a serine at amino acid position 6, a lysine at amino acid position 7, and a tyrosine at amino acid position 124.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the small molecule binds to at least one amino acid residue on the Calnexin protein, wherein the at least one amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of an aspartic acid at position 90, a glutamic acid at amino acid position 529, a glutamic acid at amino acid position 532, and a glutamic acid at amino acid position 533.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein preventing or decreasing the interaction between the Nef protein and the Calnexin protein results in at least partial restoration of ATP-Binding Cassette A1 (ABCA1) activity.

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